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Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 1994

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1994 List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA Available

Beltsville, MD – The 1994 edition of the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA* (LJI) is now available from the National Agricultural Library (NAL). AGRICOLA (*AGRICultural OnLine Access*) is NAL's computerized bibliographic database.

The 1994 LJI updates previous editions and includes sections for titles added since 1992, titles no longer indexed, an alphabetical listing by journal title, an abbreviated title listing, a listing by subject category and a list of journals abstracted in AGRICOLA. The new LJI includes 1,560 journals currently indexed into AGRICOLA by NAL.

Journals are listed alphabetically by full title in the main section of the publication. In addition, each entry includes the abbreviated title, NAL call number, International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), place of publication, publisher's name, indexing coverage of the journal (i.e. – indexed selectively or cover-to-cover) and indicates if author abstracts are included in the AGRICOLA records.

The listing is an important reference tool for indexers, catalogers, reference librarians and other users of AGRICOLA. AGRICOLA contains records for agricultural literature citations of journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, computer software, audiovisual materials, technical reports, maps, manuscripts and microforms.

The LJI includes titles indexed for AGRICOLA as of January 1994. NAL's Indexing Branch updates the list periodically to reflect additions, deletions and other changes.

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To obtain a copy of the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA*, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Indexing Branch; Attn: LJI-94
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

NAL, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States. It is the largest agricultural library in the world with a collection of over 2.1 million volumes.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAL Ships Surplus Books to Central Europe

Beltsville, MD – The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is finding a good use for surplus U.S. agricultural journals and books. The library is shipping the materials overseas to help farmers and agricultural scientists in Central Europe.

In the last two years, nearly 300 boxes of surplus agricultural literature provided to NAL by U.S. scientists nationwide have been sent to agricultural libraries in Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Most recently, NAL shipped 219 boxes to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The library expects to ship between 300 and 400 more boxes to the Baltic Republics by October 1994.

NAL is being aided in this effort by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and International Cooperation and Development organization.

According to NAL Acting Director Pamela Andre, this program came about as a result of the reorganization of Central European countries that took place several years ago. "NAL saw the changes that occurred in Central Europe in 1991 as an opportunity to forge new ties with agricultural librarians in those countries and to exchange agricultural information," Andre said. "We have held a number of meetings here and in Central Europe and learned of the keen need for U.S. agricultural research literature in these countries. Basically, they can use anything we can give them."

Anxious to take advantage of this opportunity, NAL began looking for help on this program from other U.S. organizations.

"The Food and Agricultural Organization and USDA International Cooperation and Development came up with

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funds to help pay for the shipping," Andre said, "while the Agricultural Research Service requested that research scientists nationwide send us any surplus journals and books."

ARS scientists sent thousands of items such as personal collections of the *Agronomy Journal*, the *Journal of Animal Science* and the *Journal of Dairy Science* to NAL.

"The scientists were pleased to be able to recycle the research literature they no longer needed," Andre said.

And the Central Europeans were pleased too. NAL has received expressions of thanks in letters from several directors of agricultural libraries assisted by the effort.

Following up on this new cooperation with Central Europe, NAL arranged for two Central European agricultural librarians to spend several weeks this past fall observing NAL operations in Beltsville, Maryland.

"It's through cooperation like this that the countries of the world can help each other to improve agricultural output and maybe one day end hunger once and for all," Andre said.

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National Agricultural Library, USDA
Acquisitions/Serials Branch
Exchange & Gift, Room 002
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

NAL is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, one of three national libraries of the United States. It is the largest agricultural library in the world.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plant Genome Database Available on Internet

Beltsville, MD – The Plant Genome Database (PGD) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is now available over the Internet from the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

PGD contains data for important crop species including maize, soybean, small grains (wheat, barley, oats), rice, and tomato. It also contains data on “Arabidopsis,” an organism that has served as a model for plant genetic research. PGD managers expect to expand the database, adding data on other crop species as it becomes available.

“Information in PGD centers around genetic maps and loci,” said Doug Bigwood, PGD manager. “However, there is also data on probes, clones, references, researchers and germplasm.”

Bigwood said that the database is actually a variety of information products: PGD/gopher – a gopher server for plain text retrieval; PGD/WWW – a World Wide Web server for hypertext retrieval and navigating through the database; and PGD/ftp – in which data is available by anonymous file transfer protocol. A CD-ROM version of the database has been developed and will be released in the near future.

Bigwood offered the following guidance for accessing the database via the Internet:

- Use “probe.nalusda.gov” port 70 to access the gopher form of the database.
- To access the WWW form: the URL is “<http://probe.nalusda.gov:8000/index.html>”
- For FTP: ftp to “probe.nalusda.gov”, login with “anonymous” and an e-mail address as the password. Consult the “README” file for additional information.

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According to Dr. Susan McCarthy, coordinator of NAL's Plant Genome Data and Information Center (PGDIC), use of the database has been heavy.

"In little over one year of operation there have been almost 80,000 accesses of the database," Dr. McCarthy said. "Users have included crop breeders, geneticists and researchers, both in the U.S. and overseas. A new user group are educators who are bringing the database into their classrooms."

More information about the USDA Plant Genome Project and the PGD products can be obtained by sending electronic mail to "pgenome@nalusda.gov" or by calling NAL's Plant Genome Data and Information Center at (301) 504-6613 [TDD/TTY: (301) 504-6856]; FAX: (301) 504-7098.

Or write to:

National Agricultural Library, USDA
Plant Genome Data and Information Center, 4th Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

The Plant Genome Data and Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to plant genome, subjects covered by other information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exhibit Shows Swiss Contributions to U.S. Agriculture

Beltsville, MD – The contributions to U.S. agriculture of immigrants from the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland is the subject of a new exhibit open to the public in the lobby of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) through the end of September.

Focusing on the Albertonis, a California family descended from immigrants from Ticino, Switzerland, the exhibit includes historical photographs, rare agricultural reference books and other materials from the NAL collection.

The exhibit covers agriculture in Switzerland, the Swiss immigrants' contributions to farming methods throughout the United States and contributions of Swiss-Italian immigrants to California agricultural in particular.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Embassy of Switzerland, the NAL Special Collections Unit, and the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, a private "friends of the library" group.

According to Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head of NAL Special Collections, U.S. agriculture developed through a melding of agricultural techniques from countries throughout the world, and improvements made in the United States to farming techniques.

"Each group of immigrants that came to this country brought its own methods for growing crops and raising livestock," Fusonie said. "Through the years, these methods have blended with improved farming practices developed and introduced in this country. The Swiss-Italians have been major contributors to this process."

Fusonie said the first Swiss-Italians who settled in the Salinas Valley of California were dairy farmers who provided milk, butter and cheese to the gold-rush crazy population around the San Francisco area in the mid-1800s.

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"The Salinas Valley, at about the turn of the century, became the site of the largest Swiss-Italian community in the United States," Fusonie said. "Osvaldo Albertoni, the patriarch of the California family, came to the valley in 1927 from his boyhood home near the city of Locarno, Switzerland."

Albertoni and his wife, Onorina, farmed a 226-acre ranch in Monterey County for fifty years before retiring. Today, their son raises cattle and grows crops on the Albertoni ranch.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the NAL lobby from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The exhibit will run through the end of September 1994.

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NAL Helps with Smokey Bear Celebration

Beltsville, MD — Items from the National Agricultural Library (NAL) form a significant part of a national exhibit marking the 50th anniversary of Smokey Bear, the popular icon of forest fire prevention. The exhibit will be on display August 9 through September 5, 1994, in the lobby of the Administration Building of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The exhibit, which is touring various cities in the United State throughout the year, features posters, toys, comic books, coloring books, audio recordings of songs and radio ads, television commercials and other material.

"The National Agricultural Library has one of the most outstanding collections of Smokey Bear materials available anywhere," said Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head of NAL Special Collections. "When the organizations sponsoring Smokey's anniversary celebration decided to develop a touring exhibit, they naturally included NAL."

Dr. Fusonie explained that the Smokey Bear poster collection at NAL was given to the library by the U.S. Forest Service. Since NAL is a national library of the United States, and since both NAL and the Forest Service are agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the library is a logical home for the Forest Service collection.

"Since receiving the Forest Service materials on Smokey in 1990, NAL has been augmenting the collection with donations from other sources," Dr. Fusonie said.

The touring exhibit, called "Happy Birthday Smokey!," was developed by the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, in cooperation with the Forest Service, Lee Kimche & Associates and Historic Preservation Associates. Lee Kimche & Associates and Historic Preservation Associates are private businesses in Washington, D.C.

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Dr. Fusonie explained that Dr. Jean Pablo with Historic Preservation Associates, spent weeks going through the NAL Smokey Bear collection, selecting and curating materials for the exhibit.

"Dr. Pablo was aided in making her choices by Rudolph Wendelin, one of the original Forest Service artists to work on the Smokey Bear character," Dr. Fusonie said.

"Happy Birthday Smokey!" traces the history and future of Smokey Bear, the success of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program, the ecological role of forests and the science of fire.

The exhibit has been on display in Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Dr. Fusonie said. After its August appearance in Washington, D.C., it will move on to Chicago. Specific information on dates and places is available by contacting Lee Kimchee Associates at (202) 333-1122.

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